

Howitzer battery leads way in combat

By Sgt. Reeba Critser
28th Public Affairs Detachment

BAGRAM, Afghanistan — Although they're the only field artillery howitzer battery in theater, they are rarely used.

The soldiers of Battery C, 1st Battalion, 319th Field Artillery Regiment, Fort Bragg, N.C., provide indirect and direct fire support with 105mm Howitzers for U.S. and Coalition forces.

"Every time the infantry has mission, they take us along," said Sgt. 1st Class Hector Rodriguez, platoon sergeant for the firing platoon from Naguabo, Puerto Rico. "We are ready to provide support by fire on call."

Sometimes, that call comes in for illumination.

"Sometimes the infantry would like to see what's out there, so we provide illumination," Rodriguez said. "NVGs (night vision goggles) can only see so far. They'd (the infantry) rather have illumination support for targets far off."

When these soldiers get the call, data is sent to the Fire Direction Center where it is calculated by a Battery Computer System, verified by radio and sent to the guns within

See **BATTERY**, Page 3



Photo by Sgt. Reeba Critser, 28th Public Affairs Detachment

Staff Sgt. Timothy Berbach, 1st Battalion, 319th Field Artillery Regiment, Fort Bragg, N.C., and native of Pittsburgh, uncovers 105mm rounds stored on the back of a HMMWV for future missions at a forward operating base in Southeastern Afghanistan.

Take care as temperatures begin to drop

By Pfc. Debralee P. Crankshaw
11th Public Affairs Detachment

BAGRAM, Afghanistan — Staying healthy is important for all soldiers. Washing hands, eating healthy and drinking plenty of fluids in an environment where the temperature is as low as 23 degrees are not the only concerns soldiers should have when staying healthy.

As the temperature gets colder here, soldiers have to pay more attention to preventing weather-related injuries, said Spc. Juliet Kirkpatrick, preventive medicine specialist, 791st Preventive Medicine Detachment.

Wearing the proper cold weather gear such as gortex, gloves and sweaters is important in preventing injuries, said Kirkpatrick.

"Headgear is very important because 70-80 percent of body heat is lost through your

head," said Kirkpatrick.

"It is also important to wear your clothing loose to avoid cutting off circulation," she added.

"Foot care is important to avoiding injury. Feet need to be inspected daily for moisture and wet socks need to be changed as soon as possible," said Kirkpatrick.

"Socks may get wet through sweat, so even if you think your feet are dry, you may need to change your socks," she added.

"It is so important to keep dry because you body loses heat 25 times faster when it is wet," said Kirkpatrick.

In cold weather, units may use heaters to keep warm. Kirkpatrick warns these must be Army approved. If the heaters emit carbon monoxide, they must be in a well ventilated area.

See **HEALTH**, Page 3

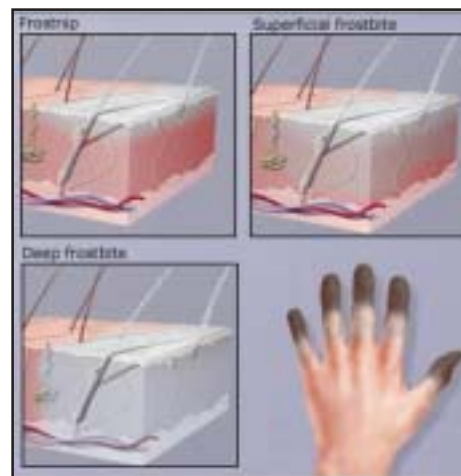


Image © WebMD

There are three degrees of frostbite: frostnip, superficial frostbite, and deep frostbite. Although children, older people, and those with circulatory problems are at greater risk for frostbite, most cases occur in adults between 30 and 49.

World News

(Compiled from CNN.com)

Powell: N. Korea 'not a crisis'

WASHINGTON — Secretary of State Colin Powell said Sunday that North Korea is “playing with the fool’s gold of nuclear weapons” and putting its relationships with other countries at risk, but he said that the situation is “not a crisis.”

The secretary made the rounds of Sunday news shows describing the Bush administration’s strategy for dealing with North Korea.

“The president is keeping all of his options on the table, but we’re leading with the diplomatic option,” Powell told CNN’s “Late Edition With Wolf Blitzer.”

Last week, North Korea announced it will reactivate the Yongbyon nuclear power plant, which is capable of producing enough weapons-grade plutonium to make two or three nuclear bombs per year, and then told U.N. inspectors to leave the country.

The inspectors plan to comply with that request Tuesday.

“While we were all watching Yongbyon for the last eight years, they began another program to enrich uranium at another place,” Powell told ABC’s “This Week.”

“We discovered that earlier this year and brought it to the attention of the international community” — which “wants to help North Korea, not attack North Korea,” Powell told NBC’s “Meet the Press.”

Airports begin bomb screenings

WASHINGTON — Holiday travelers who left before Christmas may have a different airport experience if they fly home after New Year’s Day.

Their checked bags likely will be searched for explosives, although the method — machine, human hands or dogs — will vary by airport. And at more than 40 airports, travelers with only carry-on bags no longer can go straight to the gate. They’ll have to make a detour to the ticket counter or a kiosk to get a boarding pass.

The changes are bound to create problems, said Michael Boyd, a Denver-based airline consultant. He offered this advice: Don’t check anything and get there very early.

“It could be total chaos,” he said.

Enhanced security at airports isn’t new for frequent air travelers. They know that they’ll have to show a government-issued ID several times before reaching the gate. Coats, and sometimes shoes, must be taken off and run through the same machines that check carry-on bags. Travelers may be randomly selected for a second, and even a third, search.

Rangel to push military service bill

WASHINGTON — A Democratic lawmaker said Sunday he will introduce a bill in the next session of Congress to make military service mandatory.

Rep. Charles Rangel, D-New York, said such legislation could make members of Congress more reluctant to authorize military action.

“I’m going to introduce legislation to have universal military service to let everyone have an opportunity to defend the Free World against the threats coming to us,” Rangel said on CNN’s “Late Edition.”

“I’m talking about mandatory service.”

The Korean War veteran has accused the Bush administration and some fellow lawmakers of being too willing to go to war with Iraq.



Photo by U.S. Air Force Tech. Sgt. Adam Johnston

Taking out the trash ...

Air Force Senior Master Sgt. Dave Dickinson, 455th EOG first sergeant heads up a trash detail Friday in Air Force Village at Bagram Air Base, Afghanistan. The detail is one of many additional duties airmen frequently pull at this base north of Kabul. Dickinson is normally assigned to the 72nd Medical Group at Tinker AFB, Okla.

In October, he voted against a joint resolution authorizing military action against Iraq. It passed 296-133 in the House and 77-23 in the Senate.

“When you talk about a war, you’re talking about ground troops, you’re talking about enlisted people, and they don’t come from the kids and members of Congress,” he said.

Rangel did not provide specifics of his proposal.

Cloned baby coming to U.S.

NEW YORK — The company that claims to have created the world’s first cloned human says the baby, nicknamed “Eve,” is coming home to the United States on Monday.

The baby is flying into the country with her family, Brigitte Boisselier said Sunday, two days after she announced the child’s birth. Boisselier is chief executive of Clonaid, the cloning company affiliated with a religious sect that believes space aliens launched life on Earth.

“The baby is going home and once at home it is possible for an independent expert to go there and once a sample is taken we will see,” she said, referring to DNA testing needed to prove whether the child is really a clone.

HEALTH, from Page 1

"Soldiers should learn to identify cold weather injuries as well as carbon monoxide poisoning in themselves and others," said Kirkpatrick.

Cold weather injury symptoms include a decrease of fine motor coordination — especially in the hands, violent shivering, red numb skin and tingling, pain or itching.

Carbon monoxide poisoning symptoms include headaches, dizziness, confusion, bright-red lips and eyelids, drowsiness and a nearby source of carbon monoxide.

"COLD helps me remember how to prevent cold weather injuries. It means keep clothing Clean, avoid Overdressing, wear clothes Loose and in Layers and keep clothing Dry," said Kirkpatrick.

Common first-aid steps:

Chilblain and Trenchfoot:

1. Prevent further exposure.
2. Remove wet, constrictive clothing.
3. Wash and dry injury gently.
4. Elevate, cover with layers of loose, warm clothing and allow to rewarm (pain and blisters may develop).
5. Do *not* pop blisters, apply lotions or creams, massage, expose to extreme heat or allow victim to walk on injury.
6. Refer for medical treatment.

Frostbite:

1. Prevent further exposure.
2. Remove wet, constrictive clothing.
3. Rewarm gradually by direct skin-to-skin contact between injured area and noninjured skin of the victim or a buddy.
4. Evacuate for medical treatment (foot injuries by litter).
5. Do not allow injury to refreeze during evacuation.

Deployment entitlements

❖ **Hostile Fire Pay** — You will be authorized **\$150** per month for every month that you are in designated areas. The full amount is authorized even if you only spend one day in a designated area.

❖ **Hazardous Duty Pay - Location** — Starts the day of arrival and ends the day of departure. You will be authorized up to **\$100** a month (\$3.33 a day if not in theatre the entire month).

❖ **Per Diem** — You are authorized **\$3.50 a day** for everyday you spend in theatre. **Upon completion of your tour you will need to file a travel voucher (DD form 1351-2).** The voucher should include the day you left your home station to the day you returned.



Photos by Sgt. Reeba Critser, 28th Public Affairs Detachment

Pfc. Joel Rice, 1st Battalion, 319th Field Artillery Regiment, Fort Bragg, N.C., and native of Lancaster, Penn., repairs the unit's Q-36 radar at a forward operating base in Southeastern Afghanistan.

BATTERY, from PAGE 1

25 seconds.

"Instead of getting data by phone, all data is received at one spot," Rodriguez said.

At least one soldier is working around the clock.

"If something was to happen, we have at least one person ready to alert the rest," said Staff Sgt. Olavo Amado, fire direction chief from Pawtucket, R.I. "If something was to happen, everyone knows what their position is. It would be like a bunch of ants running around, chaotic but organized."

In addition to sending out fire, the battery has its own version of a quick reaction force — the Q-36 radar.

Staff Sgt. Tomás Benítez, radar section chief from Carolina, Puerto Rico, said the base perimeter is sensorized with an imaginary wall. If any rounds penetrate that wall, the shooters are fired upon within two minutes.

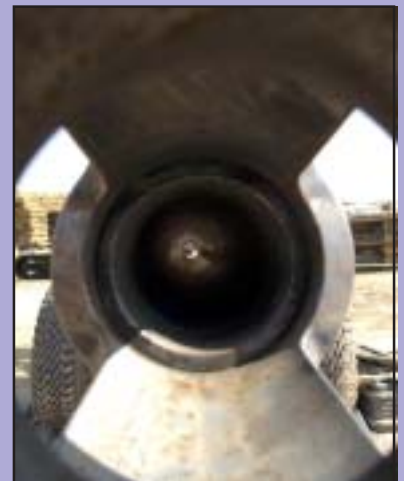
"The radar acquires every target location — mortar, artillery, rockets, up to 24,000 meters," he said. "The radar tells us exactly where he's (the enemy fired at us) at plus or minus 10 meters. We fire

back and destroy the target."

With all its capabilities, it comes as a surprise that the battery is rarely used for tactical purposes.

"As far as infantry operations go, if everything goes good, they don't need us," said Pfc. Jason Snyder, assistant gunner from Rogersville, Tenn.

"Even if we don't get a chance to fire at the enemy, we're doing our part," said Pfc. James Zala, cannoneer from Plantation, Fla. "That's what counts."



A 105mm round is loaded into the chamber of a howitzer at a forward operating base in Southeastern Afghanistan.

Dragon Palace holds New Year's Eve bash

By Pfc. Christina Carde
11th Public Affairs Detachment

BAGRAM, Afghanistan — As the holiday season comes to a close and the new year approaches, everyone around the world is getting ready for the bash to end 2002. This year, the Morale, Welfare and Recreation building is ringing in the new year with a dance contest, music, door prizes and more. The party starts at 9 p.m., New Year's Eve.

"R&B, hip hop and dance are the choice music selections for the event, and door prizes will be given away every 30 minutes," said Shannon T. Stewart, event coordinator, Kellogg, Brown and Root. "There will also be a few dance contests to keep the evening interesting."

Due to the opinions of soldiers and a little outside help, this party should be an upgrade from the one held on Christmas Eve.

"I conducted a survey based on the Christmas party to see what the soldiers liked and what they would like to see in future events," said Stewart. "The Air Force has also asked to join the festivities and is contributing a sound system and a D.J. to add to the quality of the event."

Although there are other numerous shindigs taking place throughout the air base, Stewart said this one may offer some competition.

"There are a lot of people offering their support and participation to make sure this party is a success," said Stewart. "I have even donated money from my own pocket to ensure the troops have a good time."

Even though the holidays can be a hard time for a deployed soldier, sometimes a little music and fun can offer a home-like experience.

"We are here to help the soldiers and are constantly trying to make things better," said Stewart. "Hopefully this party will make the soldiers feel like they have a home away from home."

Bagram Air Base MWR presents

2000 hrs. at the MWR building: "A Knight's Tale," This is the story of William, a young squire with a gift for jousting. After his master dies suddenly, the squire hits the road with his cohorts. They stumble across an unknown writer, Chaucer. William convinces Chaucer to forge genealogy documents that will pass him off as a knight.

Tomorrow's movie will be "Sleepy Hollow."



Local weather

TWO-DAY REGIONAL WEATHER REPORT:

	Today	Tuesday
Bagram:	Partly cloudy H: 46F L: 23F	Partly cloudy H: 46F L: 21F
Kandahar:	Haze H: 59F L: 37F	Haze H: 57F L: 41F
Kabul:	Haze H: 41F L: 24F	Haze H: 45F L: 21F
Uzbekistan:	Fog w/snow H: 30F L: 23F	Fog H: 36F L: 26F

Weather forecast courtesy of the Bagram Combat Weather Team

Freedom Watch falls under the supervision of the Combined Joint Task Force - 180, and is published daily, Monday - Saturday.

CJTF-180 Commander —

Lt. Gen. Dan McNeill

CJTF-180 Command Sergeant Major —

Command Sgt. Maj. Steven R. England

Public Affairs Officer —

Col. Roger King

Public Affairs Sergeant Major —

Master Sgt. Kelly Tyler

Freedom Watch, an Army newspaper



publication, is produced by the 11th Public Affairs Detachment at Bagram Air Base, Afghanistan.

Commander — Maj. William Mott

NCOIC — Staff Sgt. Christina Bhatti

Editor — Sgt. W. Cullen James

Journalists — Pfc. Debralee P.

Crankshaw, Pfc. Christina Carde

In accordance with AR 360-1, this Army newspaper is an authorized publication for members of the U.S. military overseas.

Contents of *Freedom Watch* are not necessarily the official view of, or endorsed by, the U.S. government, the Department of Defense or the Department of the Army.

All submissions are subject to editing for size and content by the 11th Public Affairs Detachment, located in Motel 6, CJTF-180, Bagram Air Base.

Visit the CENTCOM Web site at www.centcom.mil and click on the CJTF-180 link to get the latest editions of the *Freedom Watch*.

To be added to the daily distribution list email william.james@us.army.mil



Coalition Sports Zone

(Compiled from ESPN.com)

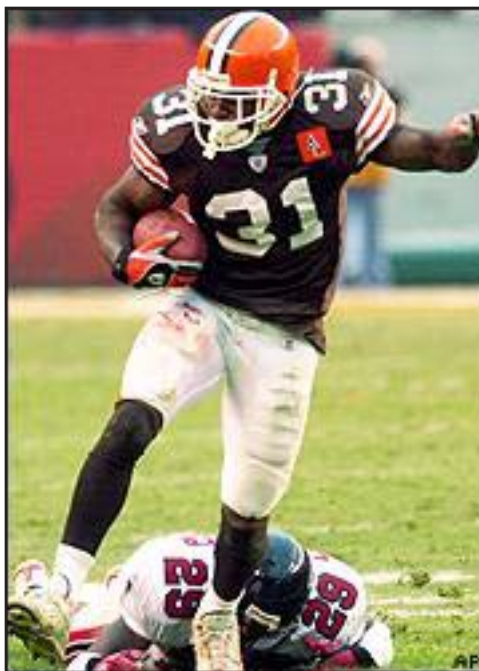
Playoff picture becomes much clearer

The NFL's playoff berths were finally filled Sunday when the New York Jets beat Green Bay to win the AFC East, knocking out defending Super Bowl champion New England.

The Jets' victory also pulled the Cleveland Browns into the postseason in only their fourth year. While those two 9-7 teams made it, three others with the same record — the Patriots, Dolphins and Broncos — were out.

In the NFC, the Atlanta Falcons backed in, losing to the Browns but getting the last wild-card berth when New Orleans, another 9-7 team, lost at home to Carolina to miss the playoffs.

The Jets' win also gave Philadelphia the top seeding in the NFC and home-field advantage in the conference playoffs.



William Green rushed for 178 yards in the Browns' win over the Falcons.



Week 17 NFL scores

Pittsburgh 34, Baltimore 31
Tennessee 13, Houston 3
Cleveland 24, Atlanta 16
New England 27, Miami 24
Indianapolis 20, Jacksonville 13
Denver 37, Arizona 7
Tampa Bay 15, Chicago 0
N.Y. Giants 10, Philadelphia 7
Washington 20, Dallas 14
Buffalo 27, Cincinnati 9
Minnesota 38, Detroit 36
Carolina 10, New Orleans 6
N.Y. Jets 42, Green Bay 17
Seattle 31, San Diego 28
Oakland 24, Kansas City 0
Monday Night Football
San Francisco vs. St. Louis

See **SPORTS**, Page 6

2002 National Football League standings

American Football Conference

East

N. England	9-7	.563
zN.Y. Jets	9-7	.563
(5) Miami	9-7	.563
Buffalo	8-8	.500

North

z(3)Pittsburgh	10-5-1	.656
y(6)Cleveland	9-7	.563
Baltimore	7-9	.438
Cincinnati	2-14	.125

South

z(2)Tennessee	11-5	.688
y(4)Indianapolis	10-6	.625
Jacksonville	6-10	.375
Houston	4-12	.250

West

*(1)Oakland	11-5	.688
Denver	9-7	.563
San Diego	8-8	.500
Kansas City	8-8	.500



National Football Conference

East

z(1) Philadelphia	12-4	.750
y(5)N.Y. Giants	10-6	.625
Washington	7-9	.438
Dallas	5-11	.313

North

z(2) Green Bay	12-4	.750
Minnesota	6-10	.375
Chicago	4-11	.267
Detroit	3-13	.188

South

z(3) Tampa Bay	11-4	.733
y(6) Atlanta	9-6-1	.594
N.Orleans	9-7	.563
Carolina	7-9	.438

West

z(4) San Francisco	10-5	.667
Seattle	7-9	.438
St. Louis	6-9	.400
Arizona	5-11	.313

y - Clinched Wildcard, z - Clinched division, * - Clinched division and homefield advantage



Chad Pennington threw four touchdown passes against the Packers.

Jets have eyes on bigger things

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. — He flashed the same boyish smile we've seen ever since he became the Jets starting quarterback, and said exactly what he's been saying all season.

"We're not focused on coming close," Chad Pennington declared. "Championships, that's what this game is all about."

Pennington and the Jets, who beat the Green Bay Packers 42-17 at Giants Stadium on Sunday to win the AFC East, head into their wild-card matchup against the Colts playing as well as any team in the league.

"This is special," said Pennington, who threw four touchdown passes. "We have a chance to make history. But it's up to us."

It wasn't up to them yesterday, not until Adam Vinatieri's field goal capped the New England Patriots' improbable comeback against the Miami Dolphins at Gillette Stadium, bringing cheers from the Jets fans in Jersey, hundreds of miles away.

SPORTS, from Page 5

It was a day of churning emotions as games changed from moment to moment, particularly in the AFC, which has been jammed all season.

If the Jets had lost, New England and Miami would have been in. Denver was eliminated after the early games but beat Arizona anyway.

The Patriots still provided a lot of excitement, both for their fans and those of the Jets, who needed New England to beat the Dolphins.

When New England came from 11 points down in the last five minutes against Miami, fans in the Meadowlands were paying rapt attention. The "J-E-T-S, Jets, Jets, Jets!" cheer turned to "P-A-T-S, Pats, Pats, Pats!" When Adam Vinatieri's field goal won the game in overtime, the cheers were as loud as they were for a home team touchdown.

The Patriots and Dolphins had to wait three hours for the outcome of the Packers-Jets game. A win by the Packers would have put both in the playoffs.

Now, for the first time since 1999, both Super

Bowl participants missed the playoffs. St. Louis was eliminated long ago.

"It's kind of like waiting for a baby in the delivery room, but it could have been a lot worse. We could have lost that game," Patriots safety Lawyer Milloy said as he watched the Packers-Jets game.

Atlanta, meanwhile, wasn't thrilled with the way it got in.

"I'm really, really, really down," tight end Alge Crumpler said. "Maybe a lot of guys are. I feel like we backed in to these playoffs."

In the AFC, Oakland (11-5) has the top seeding and home-field advantage while Tennessee (11-5) is second and will be off next week.

They are followed by Pittsburgh (10-5-1) and the Jets (9-7), both division champions. Indianapolis (10-6) will be at the Jets next weekend and Cleveland (9-7) will play at Pittsburgh in the wild-card round.

Philadelphia (12-4) gets the top seeding in the AFC with the second hanging on Sunday night's game between Tampa Bay (11-4) and Chicago. If the Bucs win, they'll get next week off.



kevin_kilgore@hotmail.com

By Kevin Kilgore

The bad news is, there's not enough flying slots. The good news is, we've still got something for you to fly."

Laugh Support